

Meeting Minutes – Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC)

Wednesday, March 09, 2016

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Eiteljorg Museum

500 West Washington Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Voting Members Present

Shannon Turner, Erin Oliver, Tracy Locke, John Boyd, Peter Magnant, Nathan Underwood, Dave Liebel, Cameron F. Clark, and Joe Moser

Voting Members Not Present

Sarah Ancel, Greg Bedan, Brenda Summers

Non-voting Members Not Present

Senator Randy Head

Representative Dan Leonard

Staff Present

Kerry Steiner, Executive Director

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by Vice-Chairman Nathan Underwood. Executive Director Steiner performed a roll call which resulted in nine voting members and no non-voting members being present at the start of the meeting. As a result, the meeting established a quorum.

Invocation

By the request of Executive Director Steiner, Commissioner Turner provided the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Review Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for the October 14, 2015, commission meeting were reviewed by the commissioners. No amendments were presented. Executive Director Steiner reported that the MOU with the American Indian Center of Indiana (AICI) did not have to go through the state process because AICI is a nonprofit organization. She further reported that the suggested changes had been made. Commissioner Cameron Clark made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peter Magnant. All commissioners were in favor of approving the meeting minutes.

Financial Report

Executive Director Steiner reported that the license plate money which had been held in the BMV's Public Trust was transferred to the commission's account in November 2015. She reported a current account balance of \$380,805.85 was being held in INAIAC's account. Executive Director Steiner highlighted an expense of \$989.00 that she was unable to identify. She stated that she was pursuing the origin of the charge and believed that it would be removed from the account.

Heritage Month Event

Executive Director Steiner reported that the November event came in under budget by approximately \$500. She reported that due to last minute changes with the event, INAIAC has 12-15 mugs available for future use. She also publically thanked the Indian State Museum for waiving the rental fee for the event.

Commissioner Turner shared concerns with the Heritage Month Event regarding communication with potential presenters. She reported that some presenters were confused by an email communication that they received from Executive Director Steiner. Commissioner Turner reported that many presenters decided not to come because they believed the event to be canceled. Executive Director Steiner clarified that the email communication that Commissioner Turner referenced was in response to an email from the presenters stating that they would not be able to participate, and at no time meant to communicate that the event was canceled. She stated that the communication issues were duly noted. Commissioner Turner reported that she had hoped to have the event focus on the 4th and 5th grade state curriculum standards and believed that the inclusion of only federally recognized tribes would have been the best way to do so.

DNR Specimen Collection Process

Commissioner Clark presented a draft permit and overview for the new Native American Plant/Tree Material Specimen Collection for Medicinal or Ceremonial Purpose Permit program. Executive Director Steiner highlighted that the program would be limited to members of federally recognized tribes because the DNR did not want to be in the position of determining who is Native American and who isn't.

A member of public asked about bark collection. Some conversation ensued regarding how bark can be harvested and why trees are cut down on state properties. Commission Clark asked that questions regarding bark collection or the permit drafts should be directed to him or DNR staff attorney, Ed Harcourt.

Podcasts

Executive Director Steiner asked that anyone with potential ideas for podcasts submit the ideas to her. There is a desire for the podcasts to reach across multiple groups in order to have the biggest impact. For example the audience could be individuals in the 5th grade-12th grade as well as those incarcerated with the Department of Correction.

Bicentennial Legacy Project

Executive Director Steiner presented a project that would include the planting of trees and placement of plaques on state properties to acknowledge the historical tribes of Indiana. She reported that the plaques would allow the relevant tribes to tell their own story. She stated that she would be reaching out to the current day tribes affiliated with the 11 historical tribes for participation and hoped that tribes would work together to be successful. She reported that the DNR has opened all public lands as options for the locations. Commissioner Liebel also offered DOC crews to assist with installation. Executive Director Steiner asked for permission to utilize license plate funds to fund the project. She estimated it to cost approximately \$5,000. Commissioner Magnant made a motion to support as presented. Commission Liebel suggested a budget approval of up to \$7,000 in order to address any minor changes that could occur and motioned to approve the project as written with the amendment of a budget of \$7,000. Commissioner Magnant seconded the motion. Commissioner Turner asked for clarification on who would

be contacted to participate in the program. After some discussion Executive Director Steiner reported that it would be all contemporary groups that were connected to the 11 historical tribes. The motion was called to vote and it was unanimously voted in favor of.

Friends and Professional Nights

There was discussion about the previous friends and family event that had been hosted by the commission. It was agreed that another event would be nice, but that a summer event would probably be better attended. It was agreed upon that a summer event scheduled on a Saturday afternoon after June 3rd would be the best option. It was suggested that the event be held at the Eiteljorg Museum, possibly outdoors under the sails. Further, Commissioner Liebel suggested the event be an “open house” rather than a friends and professional event. Executive Director Steiner was tasked with moving forward with the logistical arrangements for the event.

Town Hall Meetings/Surveys

Executive Director Steiner suggested that INAIAC attend events and gatherings around the state in order to see what issues and concerns people would like the subcommittees to address. Commissioner Liebel suggested and Commissioner Turner supported county fairs as a resource. Executive Director Steiner also suggested powwows. It was decided that more conversation would occur at the May 2016 meeting.

Education Subcommittee

Commissioner Magnant motioned to approve minutes from the March 4, 2016 education subcommittee meetings. Secretary Oliver seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved. Executive Director Steiner asked for volunteers for the Scholarship Selection Committee. Commissioners Shannon Turner, Pete Magnant, Erin Oliver, Dave Liebel, and Joe Moser volunteered. The committee was set with five members. It was announced that application for summer scholarships were due by April 15, 2016. Commissioner Sarah Ancel was distributing information to state colleges and universities, and Executive Director Steiner was publicizing the program online.

Health Subcommittee

The subcommittee is currently studying what health service options are available to Indiana residents. Executive Director Steiner reported that a new facility would be very difficult to achieve. Commissioner Moser reported that there is currently a 20 year wait on new facilities and the best option would be an MOU with a partnering facility would be the best option.

Civil Rights Subcommittee

It was reported that a new Adoption Records Bill had passed and Executive Steiner was anticipating that the commission might begin receiving phone calls with questions related to the new law.

The subcommittee also discussed the issue of smudging in hospital rooms. Executive Director Steiner reported that she was working on issues regarding education health care professions and facilities on their obligation to accommodate patients and their family members. Steiner shared that the State of Illinois has included language in their state smoking bans allowing for ceremonial smudging. Commissioner Turner acknowledged that there are other issues outside of smudging, such as Navajo Childbirth practices

that health facilities need to be knowledgeable about. Commissioner Liebel suggested that the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) groups and facility chaplains might be good resources in addressing issues.

The subcommittee had studied the issues of utilizing tribal identification cards for the purpose of voter identification in Indiana. According to the staff attorney that Executive Director Steiner consulted, tribal identification cards would not work for voter ID purposes. The only way to address the issue would be to introduce legislation that expressly stated tribal identification cards could be used for voting identification purposes. Executive Director Steiner suggested speaking to the INAIAC's legislative representatives about the issue.

The subcommittee has continued to work on the "squaw" renaming project. Executive Director Steiner reported that that Pokagon Band Pottawatomi had been a great help. She reported they had already created a packet of information which INAIAC was utilizing in their research. It was reported that some renaming will need to be done, and the commission would be asked to assist with that process when the time comes.

Guest Presentation

Marty Anderson from the Indiana Small Business Administration presented on programs and services offered by the organization.

Public Comment

A member of the public asked if the public outreach efforts would also be happening in the Southern part of the state. It was reported that locations had not been decided, but efforts to reach different regions would occur.

A member of the public raised concerns that inclusion of non-federally recognized groups in the bicentennial project would allow people not affiliated with a recognized tribe to speak for those who are. There was significant conversation on historical tribes, contemporary tribes, and other American Indian affiliated groups. Commissioner Magnant reported that he believed the project should be inclusive rather than exclusive.

A member of the public asked what ICRC is going to do about the vacant seats created by the resignations of Chairman Warren and Commissioner Kenneth Eagle. Executive Director Steiner indicated the Governor's office had been notified of the vacancies.

Adjournment:

As there was no other business to come before the commission, the meeting was adjourned by a motion introduced by Vice Chairman Underwood and seconded by Commissioner Liebel.